CLAIMS

1. A method of improving the recognition accuracy of a speech recognizer, comprising the steps of:

    deploying the speech recognizer in an environment to
5   receive live input data;

    collecting live input data and associated recognition responses;

    without supervision, applying a given adaptation algorithm to the collected information to improve the
10 recognition accuracy of the speech recognizer; and

    redeploying the adapted speech recognizer in the target environment

2. The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the
15 live input data includes digitally-encoded speech waveform samples.

3. The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the live input data includes a processed version of given
20 speech waveform samples, wherein the processed version is not capable of being recognized by a human listener yet is sufficient for use as input to the given adaptation algorithm.

4.   The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the live input data and associated recognition responses are collected over a given time period.

5   5.   The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the adaptation algorithm is based on an acoustic model.

6.   The method as described in Claim **5** wherein the acoustic model is a Hidden Markov Model.

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7.   The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the adaptation algorithm is based on a language model.

8.   The method as described in Claim **7** wherein the
15   language model is Word Bigram Statistics.

9.   The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the adaptation algorithm is based on a pronunciation model.

20   10.   The method as described in Claim **9** wherein the pronunciation model is encoded in a phonetic transcription lexicon.

11.   The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the adaptation algorithm is based on search parameters of a recognition algorithm of the speech recognizer.

5   12.   The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the adaptation algorithm is based on a combination of models selected from the group consisting essentially of acoustic models, language models, pronunciation models, and search parameters of a recognition algorithm of the speech

10   recognizer.

13.   The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the adaptation is applied as live input data is collected and recognition responses to that live input data are

15   generated.

14. A method of improving the recognition accuracy of a speech recognizer deployed in an environment to receive live input data, comprising the steps of;

collecting live input data and associated recognition responses; and

without supervision, applying a given speaker-independent adaptation algorithm to the collected information to improve the recognition accuracy of the speech recognizer.

15. The method as described in Claim **11** wherein the speaker-independent adaptation algorithm is selected from the group of models consisting essentially of acoustic models, language models, pronunciation models, search parameters, and combinations thereof.